

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

November 9, 2007

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Labor
Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building, Third Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our approval of the U.S. Department of Labor's decision to include the 775 Rocky Flats workers from Building 881 under the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status. It is a step in the right direction as the decision will help provide these veterans of the Cold War with the compensation and medical benefits they deserve for their service to our Nation.

But we want to again emphasize that the individuals who currently fall within the SEC status under Secretary Leavitt's decision on the Rocky Flats petition are only a small portion of Rocky Flats workers who deserve to be covered. Building 881 might not be the only facility where crucial information has been overlooked or ignored. It is highly probable that other buildings would qualify under the SEC if we had access to complete records. But, as you are well aware, it has been close to impossible for many Rocky Flats workers to determine the dose of radiation they received due to the shoddy, inaccurate, incomplete, or lack of records that our government maintained, which is why we urged the Secretary to approve the petition in its entirety.

Further, many questions remain unanswered regarding the Department of Labor's building review of the Rocky Flats site. For example, was a formal and thorough building review performed? If yes, which federal agency performed the review and is there a spreadsheet that can be made publicly available? Furthermore, when will Rocky Flats workers receive a justification from the Department of Labor as to why a particular building was excluded from the SEC?

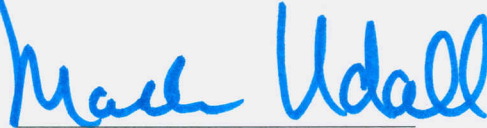
The fact that these questions and many others remain suggests a lack of oversight that the government must address. As you may know, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP Committee) held a hearing on October 23, 2007. The purpose of the hearing was to determine if the EEOICPA Program was being administered in a claimant friendly manner. We appreciate the Senate HELP Committee's efforts to ensure that EEOICPA program is working for American workers as Congress intended. Unfortunately, it is not.

We will continue to work to include all of the Rocky Flats workers who are suffering from one of the 22 listed cancers in the Special Exposure Cohort status – because it is what they have earned. We expect additional oversight hearings and legislative proposals that would address the gaps in the EEOICPA Program. We hope that we can work together and look forward to receiving answers to our questions.

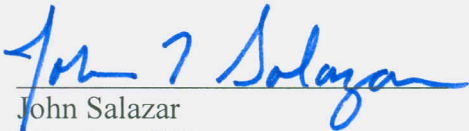
Sincerely,



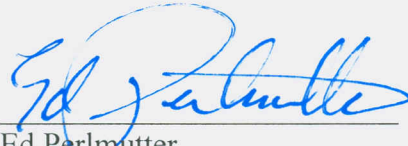
Ken Salazar
United States Senator



Mark Udall
Member of Congress



John Salazar
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress